ABSTRACT

Disclosed is an image display apparatus for a viewer to view a two-dimensional image, demonstrated on an image display device, as an enlarged virtual image by a virtual-image optical system. The image display apparatus includes a prism (15), provided with a second planar optical surface (15c), arranged parallel to a first planar optical surface (15b) on a side towards an optical pupil (19), and with a reflective transmitting surface (16) for reflecting or transmitting image light incident from an incident optical surface (15a), which has an optical axis with an angle of tilt not less than 30 degrees and less than 90 degrees relative to a normal to the first planar optical surface or to the second planar optical surface, and on which is incident image light, demonstrated on an image display device (11) and relayed by a relaying optical system. The image display apparatus also includes a reflective optical component (18) for reflecting image light, reflected from the reflective transmitting surface and radiated from the first planar optical surface towards the reflective transmitting surface as a collimated light beam, and a phase difference optical component (17) arranged on a light path between the first planar optical surface and the reflective optical component to the state of polarization of the image light.